

Physoderes notata, Westw. *Obscurè brunneo-fulvescens, pronoto in medio partis anticæ lineis duabus latis parallelis notisque tribus lateralibus obscuris, abdominis lateribus nigro flavoque variis.*
Long. corp. lin. $4\frac{1}{2}$.—In Mus. Britann.

Extract of a letter addressed by Colonel Hearsay to Mr. Westwood, containing a notice of the habits of *Galeodes* and *Scorpio*, and on the specific identity of *Papilio Pammon* and *Polytes*, which he had observed *in coitu*.

The *Galeodes vorax* of Hutton was observed running about the floors of the Bungalows at Nusseerabad, as large as small mice, several of which he had kept alive in glass bottles. On giving a large *Sphex* to one, the *Galeodes* seized it, and though stung, soon devoured it, without appearing injured by the sting. He also describes a battle which occurred between one of these insects and a good-sized scorpion: the *Galeodes* was stung several times, but was disabled by the scorpion either nipping or biting off a small piece at the very end of one of the two long thread-like feelers, the extremity of which has a process for climbing by excluding air; for by hanging by the end of these leg-feelers they can, but not easily, climb up the side of a glass tumbler. On putting another *Galeodes* to the scorpion the former seized it, and was actually thrown, more than once, violently to the sides of the glass from the strong muscular action of the tail, and the sting fairly entered its body. The *Galeodes* returned to the charge, and at last seized the tail of the scorpion near the sting, the latter endeavouring, but in vain, to seize the limbs of the former: as the *Galeodes* could not however bite through the hard substance of the tail, it gradually went down it with its jaws to its junction with the body, when it buried two of its fangs into the body of the scorpion, holding fast by the other two, and alternately gnawing and holding by these fangs. By this means it cut off the scorpion's tail from the body, and then gradually eat it—tail, sting and all.

In reference to this communication the President stated, that the species of *Galeodes* in question, which had been named *G. vorax*, was the *G. fatalis*, Hbst; and Mr. Doubleday mentioned, that in the genus *Diadema* (*Papilio Bolina*, &c.), the females of some of the species occasionally exhibited the colours of the male.

BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH.

This Society held its first meeting for the session on the 13th November, 1845. Dr. Douglas Maclagan, President, in the chair.

The President, on taking the chair, begged to offer a few remarks on the present state and prospects of the Society. During the past, as well as former sessions, many valuable papers had been read to them, and much interesting botanical information, especially on some of the more obscure classes of vegetables, had been brought before the public through the medium of their Reports and Transactions. In one respect only the Society had occasionally been deficient; he meant in the attendance of members at its meetings. This was owing in great part to the circumstance that almost all the members were professionally occupied, and therefore unable to give to a purely

scientific society that attendance which they were able to bestow on professional societies and meetings. During last session, they had also felt a great blank in the absence from their meetings of their former distinguished president, Dr. Graham, whose long and painful illness had, for many months previous to his death, precluded his taking any part in their proceedings. Dr. Maclagan felt it to be unnecessary in such a meeting to eulogise the character of Professor Graham. They all not only knew him to be a zealous cultivator and successful teacher of botany, but they had individually found in him a kind, upright and sincere friend. His affable manner, conjoined with his highly honourable deportment, had procured for him the respect and esteem of all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

It was a gratification to find in Dr. Graham's successor the gentleman to whose zeal and activity the Botanical Society of Edinburgh owed its origin. He congratulated Dr. Balfour on his return to his native city, and expressed the hope and expectation that in his new position he would materially support and advance the interests of the Society.

The following communications were read:—

1. "Contributions to the Physiology of Fecundation in Plants." By George Dickie, M.D., Lecturer on Botany in the University and King's College of Aberdeen. (See p. 5 of the present Number.)

2. "Remarks on some forms of *Rubus*." By T. Bell Salter, M.D., F.L.S., Ryde, Isle of Wight. (See 'Annals,' vol. xvi. p.361.)

Mr. James M'Nab exhibited a specimen of silk cotton (*Bombax Ceiba*), and mentioned that this substance was under trial in this city, with the view of its being employed in the manufacture of hats.

Specimens of *Barkhausia setosa*, gathered near North Queensferry, by Andrew Dewar, Esq., Dunfermline, were placed on the table.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Additional note on the Belted Kingfisher, Alcedo Alcyon, Linn., obtained in Ireland.

THE communication on this subject, which was published in the December Number of the 'Annals,' p. 430, was despatched immediately on receipt of the information, more especially that Mr. Yarrell (likewise informed to the same effect) might as early as possible be in possession of it for the second edition of his 'History of British Birds,' then just being concluded. It was consequently deficient in some few points, to which the attention of my correspondents in Dublin has since been directed. It was desirable to know the respective dates on which the birds were met with in Meath and Wicklow, that we might thus guard against the possibility of "one and the same" bird being noticed as two individuals. Mr. Warren replies, the Belted Kingfisher was shot by Frederick A. Smith, Esq., at Annsbrook, county of Meath, on the 26th of October, and that the statement of Mr. Latouche's gamekeeper on the 20th of November was, that the bird seen by him fishing at the river between Lug-